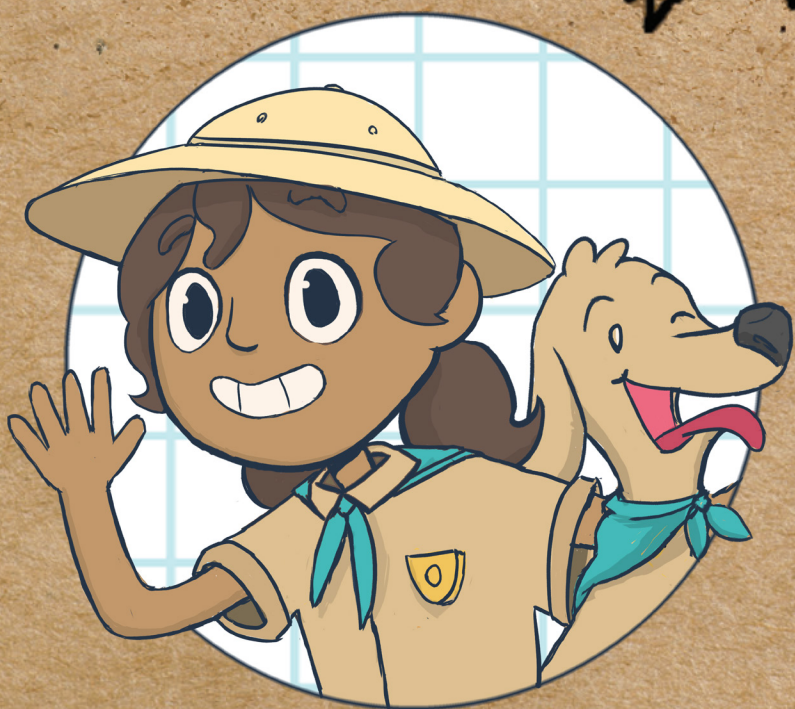


# UNEARTH THE MYSTERY

AT HUDSON-MENG

JUNIOR ARCHAEOLOGIST  
ACTIVITY BOOK



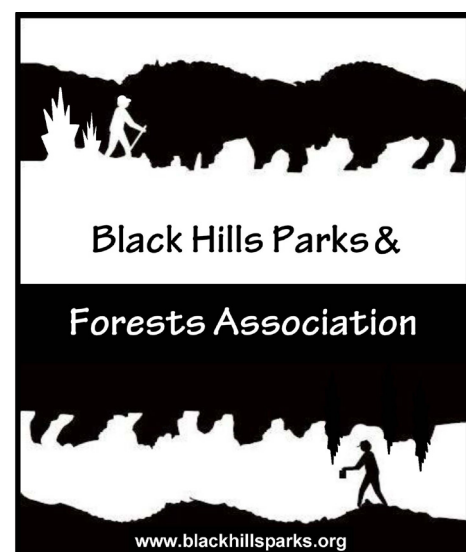
THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:



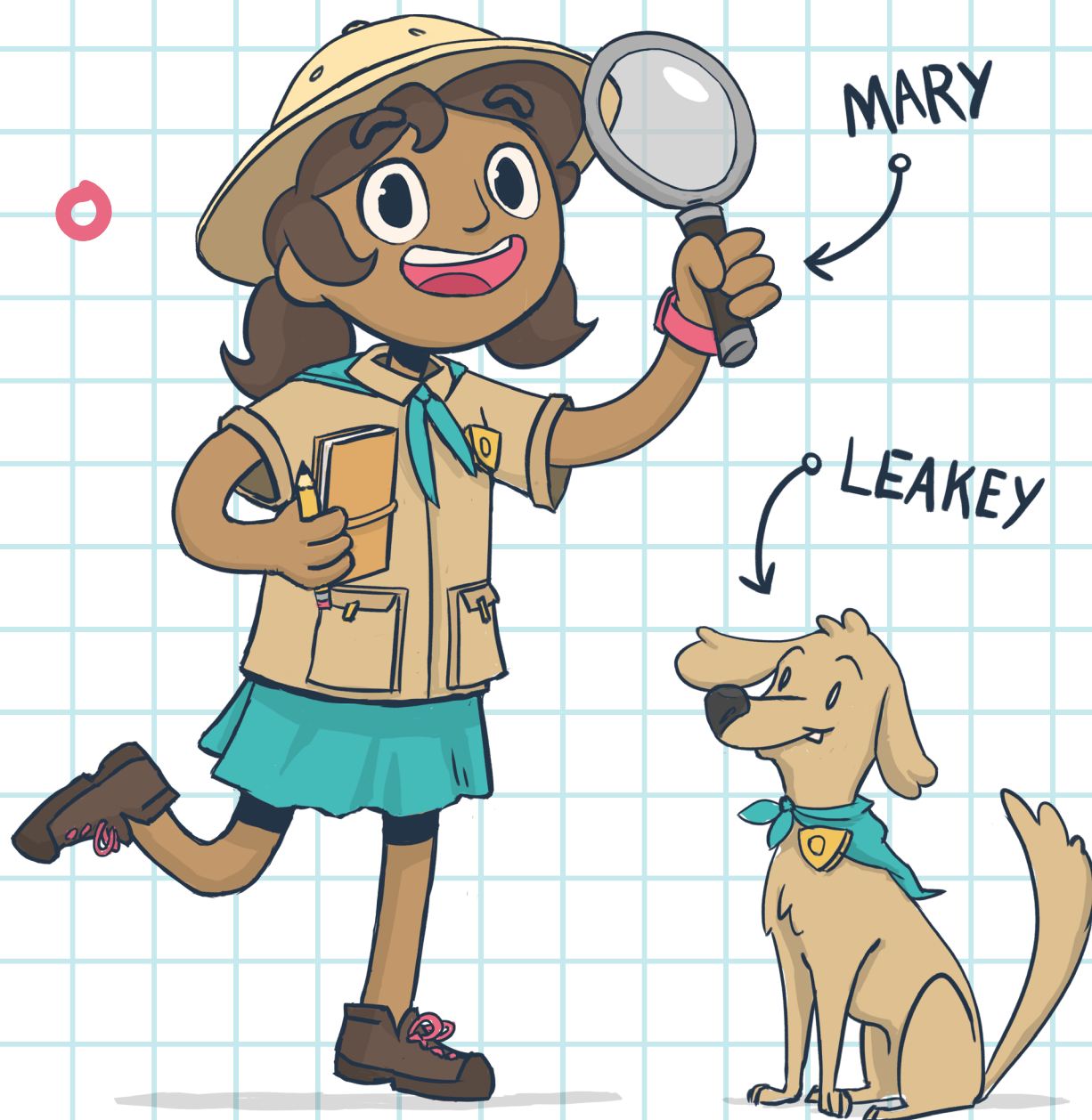


# Hey parents!

*It's for the whole family! Help your children complete at least **5 activities**. Once they're done, they can turn it in to be awarded the rank of junior archaeologist. The staff is available to answer any questions you have!*



# WELCOME TO HUDSON-MENG!

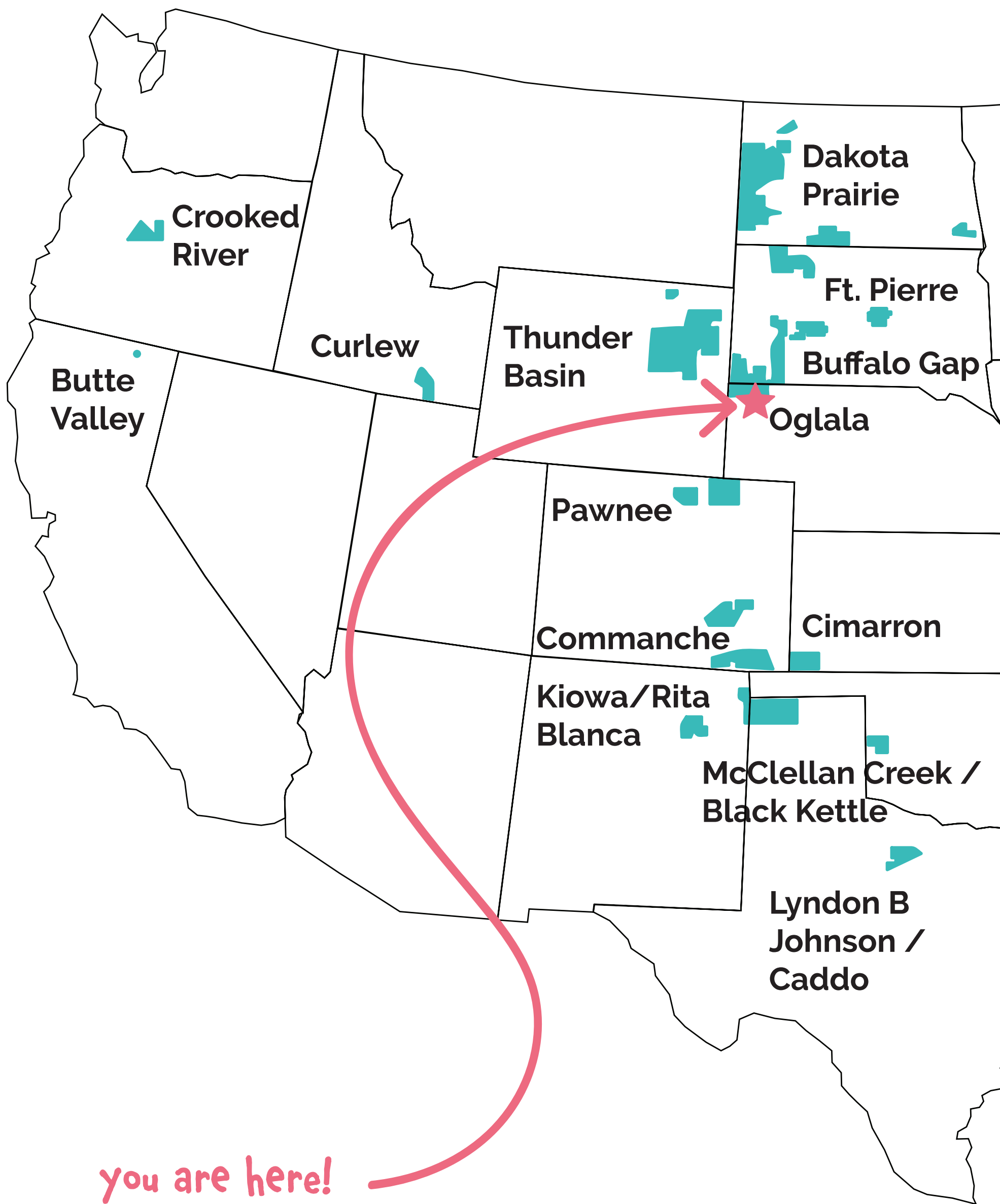


**My name's Mary, and this is my dog Leakey!**

We're here to show you around and help you become a Junior Archaeologist. All you'll need is your field notebook (*that's this!*), a good pair of shoes, and a little imagination!

Do your best to complete **5 or more activities** in this book. When you're finished, bring it to the Hudson-Meng front desk or mail it to our office to get your certificate. Then you are officially a Hudson-Meng Junior Archaeologist!

**Come on, let's get started!**



you are here!

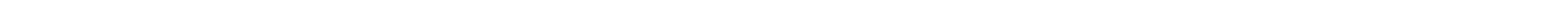


Here are some other  
National Grassland  
sites like this one!



Mark your home state on the map!

Not from the Continental U.S.? Tell us where you're from!





**Hudson-Meng is located on the  
Oglala National Grassland.**



*Grasslands have some of the most nutritious soil in the world. They provide food for everything that lives there – even humans! It's important that we take care of our grasslands, so they can be healthy for years to come.*



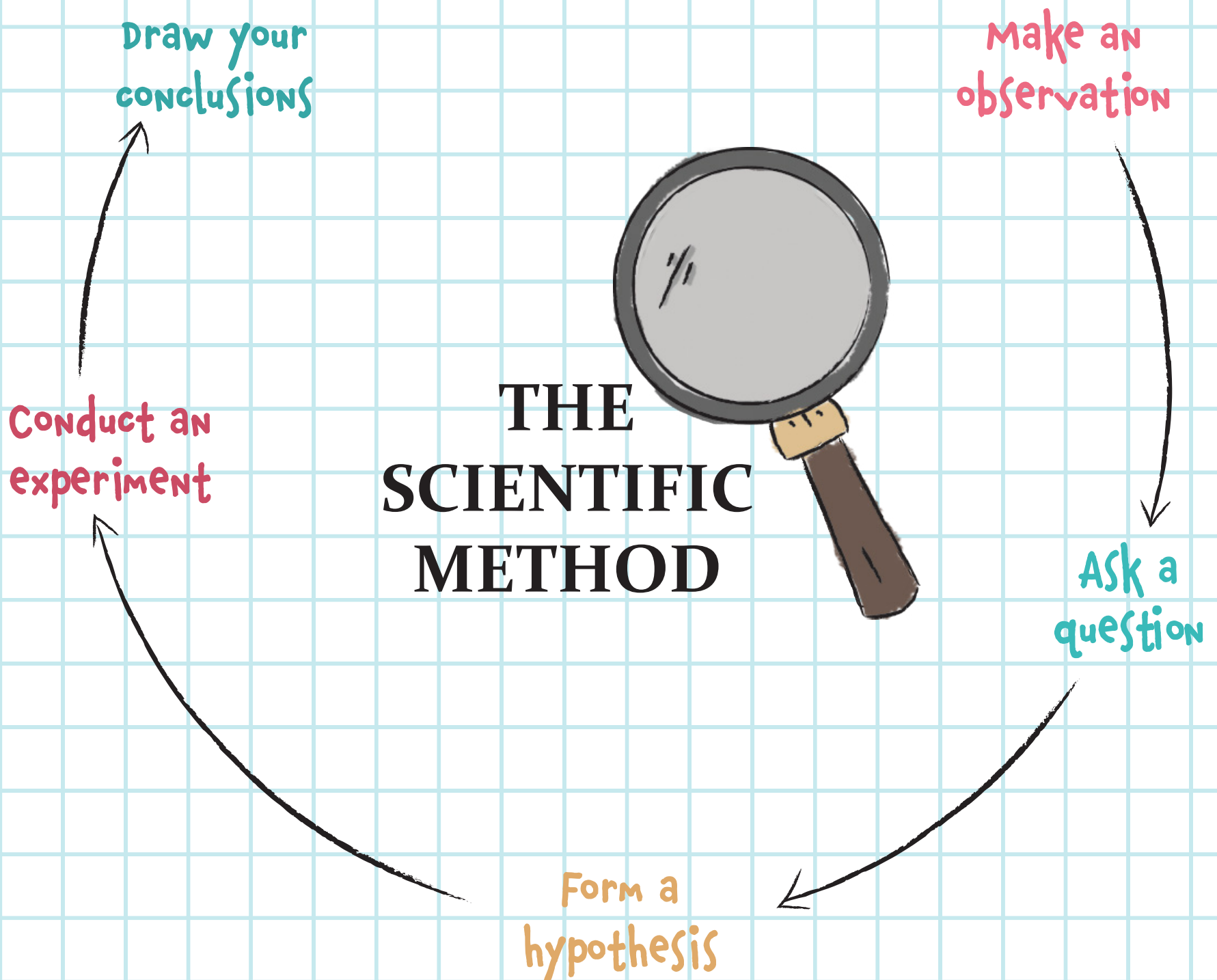
# What makes a good archaeologist?

A good archaeologist stays on trails.

A good archaeologist doesn't pick flowers or plants.

A good archaeologist leaves fossils undisturbed and shows them to a Hudson-Meng Ranger.

A good archaeologist practices the scientific method.





Write your observations, questions,  
and hypotheses here!

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*So many  
bones!*



*Who used to  
live here?*

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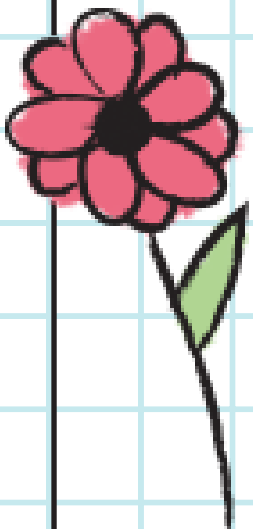


**Did you see any bones?  
Any neat flowers? Some insects?**

This image shows a full page of graph paper. The background is white, and it is covered by a uniform grid of thin, light blue lines. These lines intersect to form a series of small, identical squares across the entire surface. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



**Draw some of the things you see  
around the site here!**



*Draw a flower  
you saw*





*Did you see  
any fossils?*

**Keep track of the interesting things you see  
by listing some of them here:**

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Y	R	T	T	Y	Y	F	X	S	P	Y	Y	C	U	H	D	F
G	A	A	U	B	T	G	E	X	C	A	V	A	T	I	O	N
O	D	P	T	A	H	I	O	O	F	A	H	I	J	R	Q	X
L	I	H	I	R	H	Y	C	L	R	V	I	Y	E	K	D	W
O	O	O	S	G	E	E	P	T	O	E	H	S	J	K	B	Q
E	C	N	N	S	T	B	I	O	M	P	T	R	O	V	P	C
A	A	O	I	I	D	F	L	Q	T	S	O	W	P	N	Z	I
H	R	M	S	J	A	N	J	A	E	H	D	R	A	K	M	R
C	B	Y	Y	C	Z	W	A	R	M	T	E	I	H	O	D	S
R	O	U	T	W	M	F	V	X	R	Q	D	S	F	T	K	X
A	N	S	U	U	Q	I	T	N	A	N	O	S	I	B	N	C
M	D	J	W	C	C	O	M	X	I	E	H	R	G	S	N	A
I	A	T	X	E	I	W	N	O	O	O	U	Z	T	P	Y	F
K	T	X	M	C	F	I	E	Y	W	T	G	X	E	N	E	N
D	I	J	T	Y	Y	L	B	N	B	L	I	P	N	F	U	A
A	N	R	O	P	A	X	N	T	B	T	O	J	J	M	M	N
I	G	Q	G	P	U	G	X	J	E	R	U	T	L	U	C	U

**CULTURE** - beliefs, habits, and arts that are part of a group of people

**ANTHROPOLOGY** - the study of humans and their culture both now and a long time ago

**ARCHAEOLOGY** - the study of human culture by looking at things humans made

**ARTIFACT** - a physical thing left behind by people, either something made by humans or something natural that humans changed

**EXCAVATION** - digging and recording what you find

**SITE** - a place where people had been and left something behind to prove that they were there

**FOREST SERVICE** - part of the government that manages the land for the future

**IN SITU** - original place that artifacts are found; by looking at this we can learn how and when the artifact was left there



**TAPHONOMY** - the study of what happens to a dead organism as it decomposes and becomes a fossil

**PALEO-INDIAN** - the first group of people that lived in North America 15,000 to 8,000 years ago

**ALBERTA** - the name of the group of people that lived in the Northern US and Southern Canada that had a specific way of making projectile points which are found here at Hudson-Meng

**RADIOCARBON DATING** - a way to tell almost exactly when something lived by testing the carbon left behind by the organism

**BISON ANTIQUUS** - a bison that evolved into the bison that live today; they were 33% bigger and could get up to 7ft tall

**HYPOTHESIS** - an educated guess that archaeologists make to explain how and why the artifacts they are studying got there

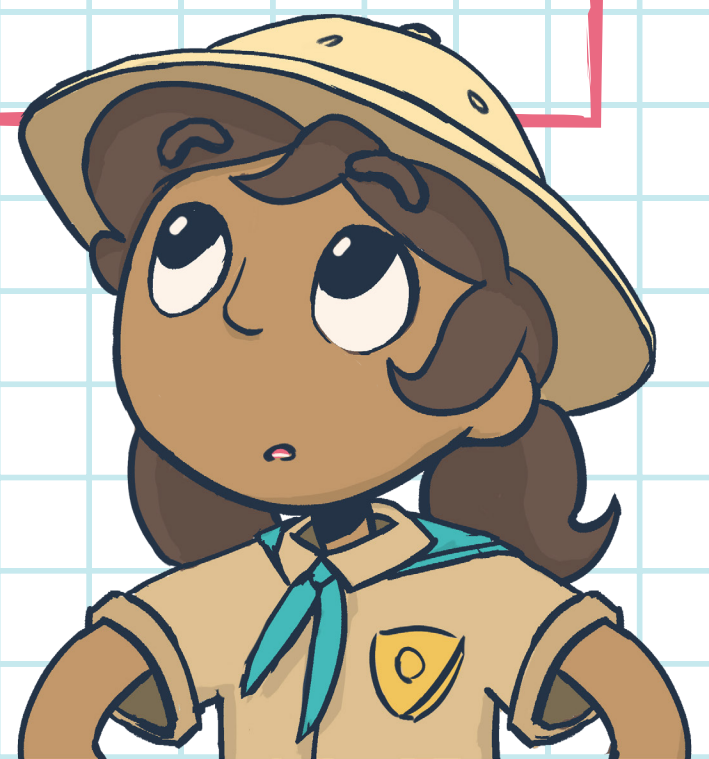
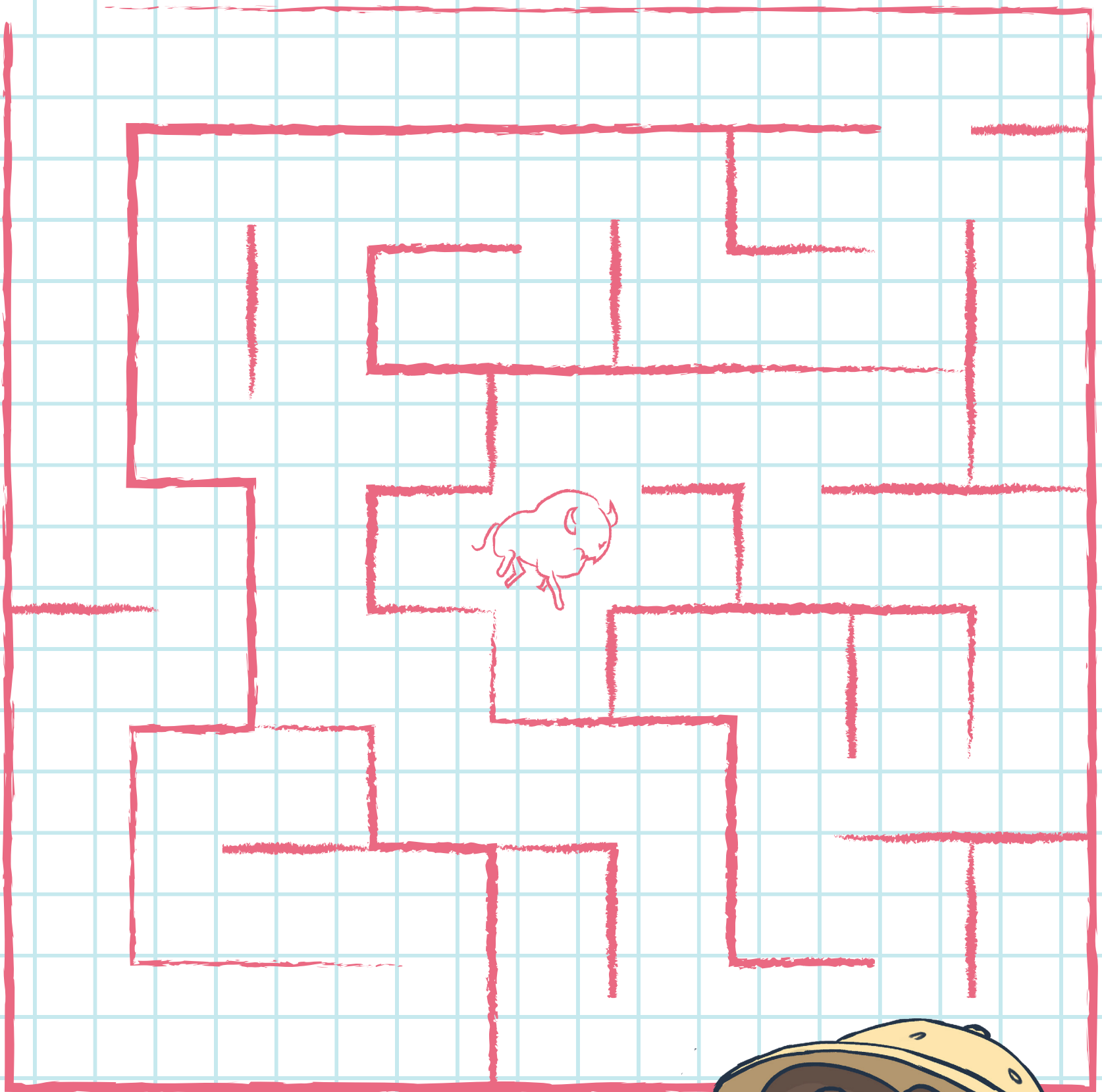
Searching for words is a lot like searching for bones. Help us out by finding as many words as you can!



These bison bones might have been left  
at Hudson-Meng from bison hunters.



Help that hunter find the bison!

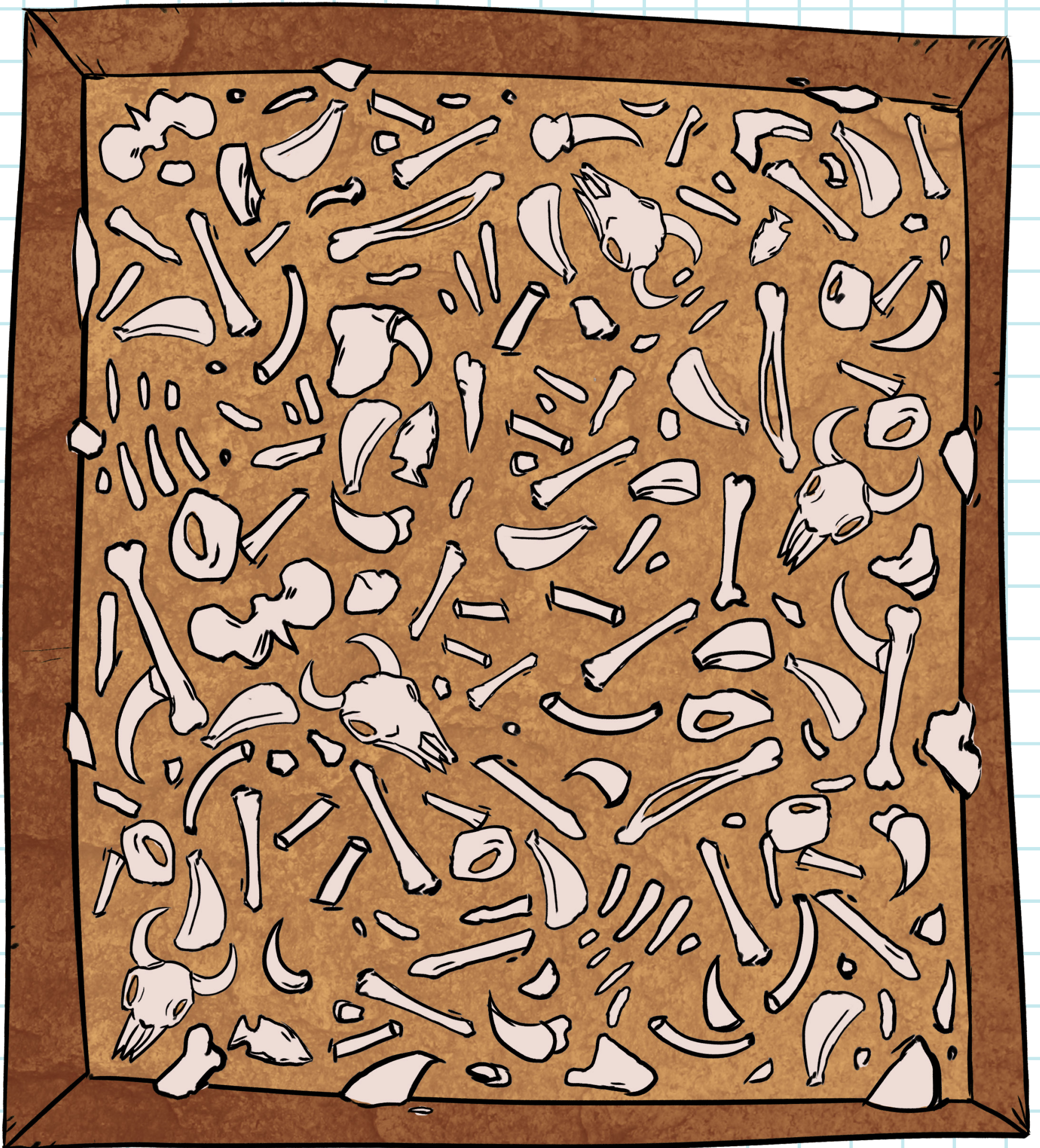




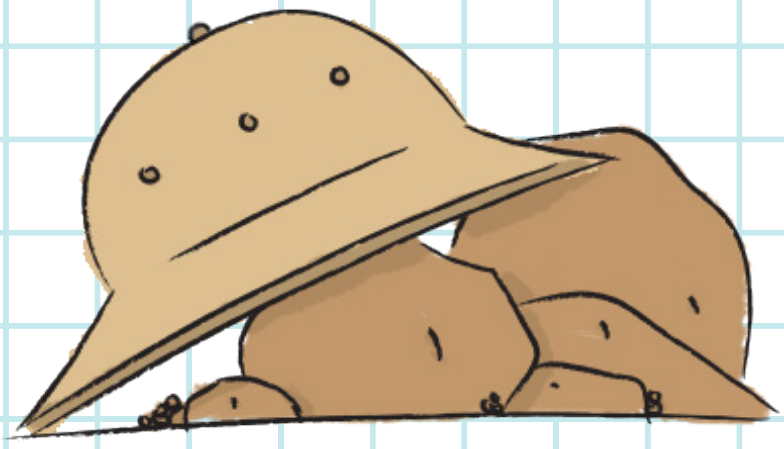
This pile of bones is a mess!



Help us count up all the Bison  
Shoulder blades by circling them.







# Let's Search For Clues

**Why did the people and bison come to this specific spot on the prairie?**

**Draw a picture of a bone.**

**What kind of bone is it? Do you know where in the body of the bison you would find it?**

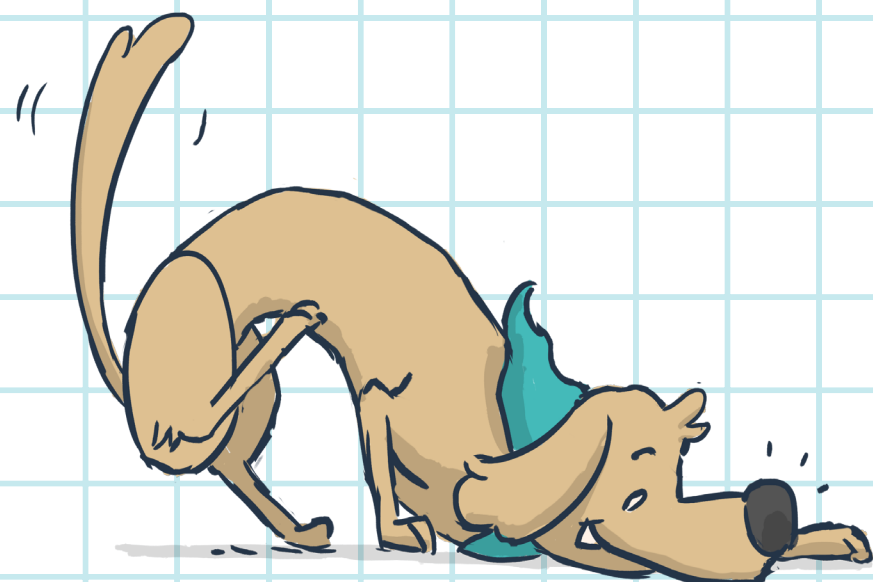


**Draw the hunting technique that people used to hunt bison.**

**To what group of people did the spear points belong?**

**How do the scientists know how old the bones are?**

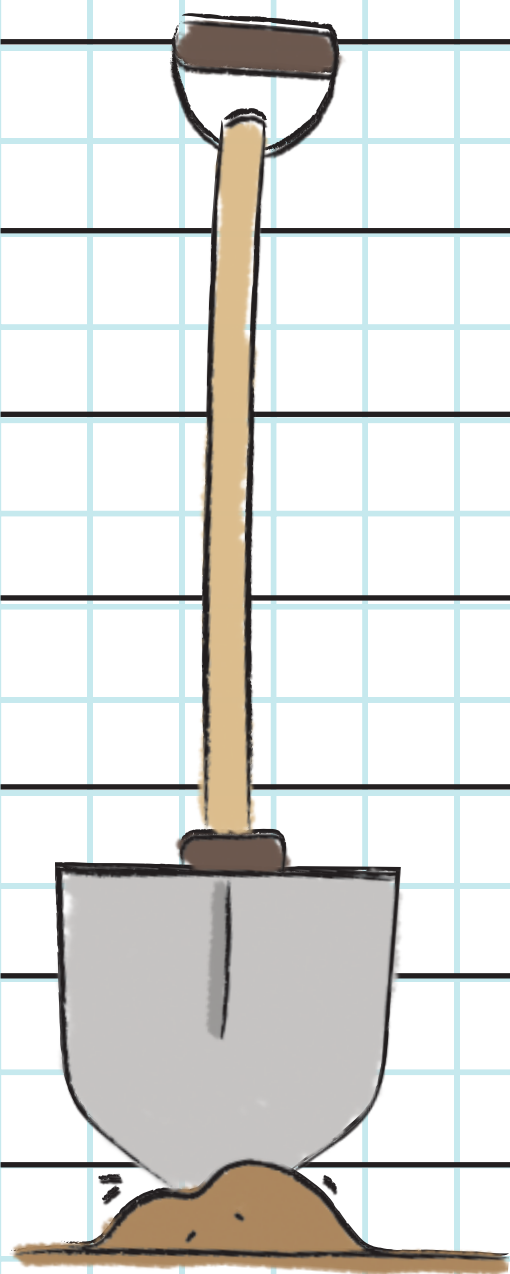
*If you get stuck, try watching our video “Unearth The Mystery of Hudson-Meng,” getting a tour, or asking rangers.*



## How's your experiment going? What have you learned so far?

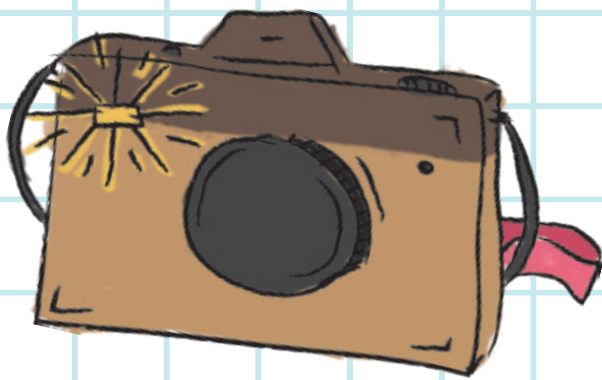
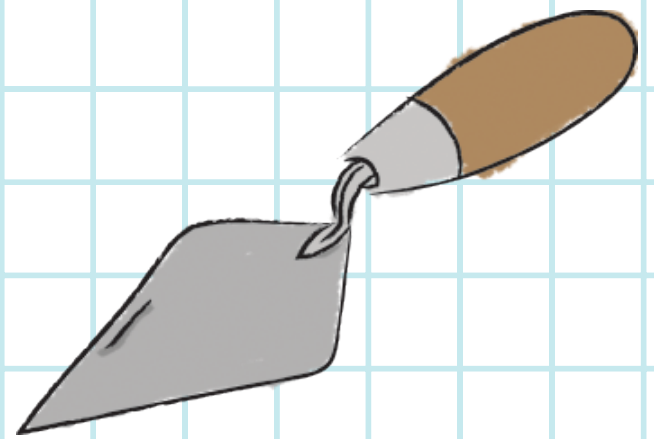
This image shows a full page of blank graph paper. The background is white, and it is covered by a uniform grid of thin, light blue horizontal and vertical lines. These lines intersect to form a series of small, identical squares across the entire page. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.



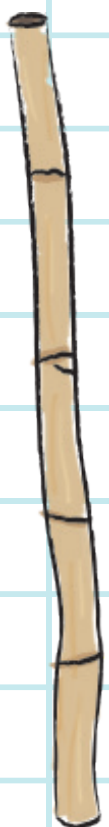


What are all these tools used for?  
Draw a line to connect the tool with its use!

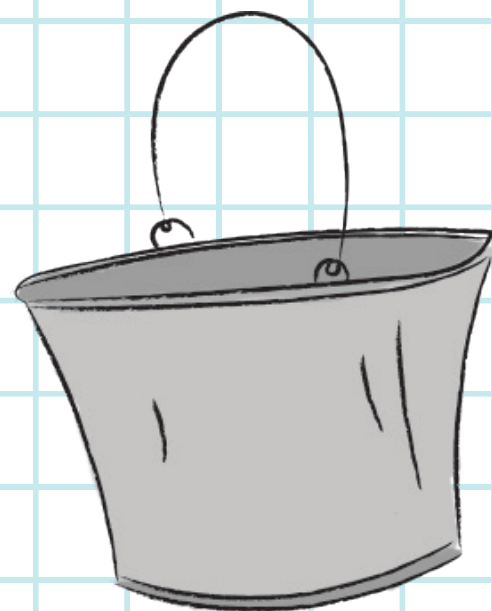
used to check dirt for small  
artifacts you may have missed



used for  
careful cleaning

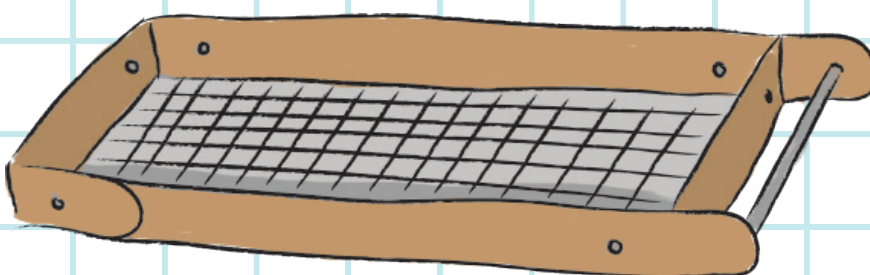
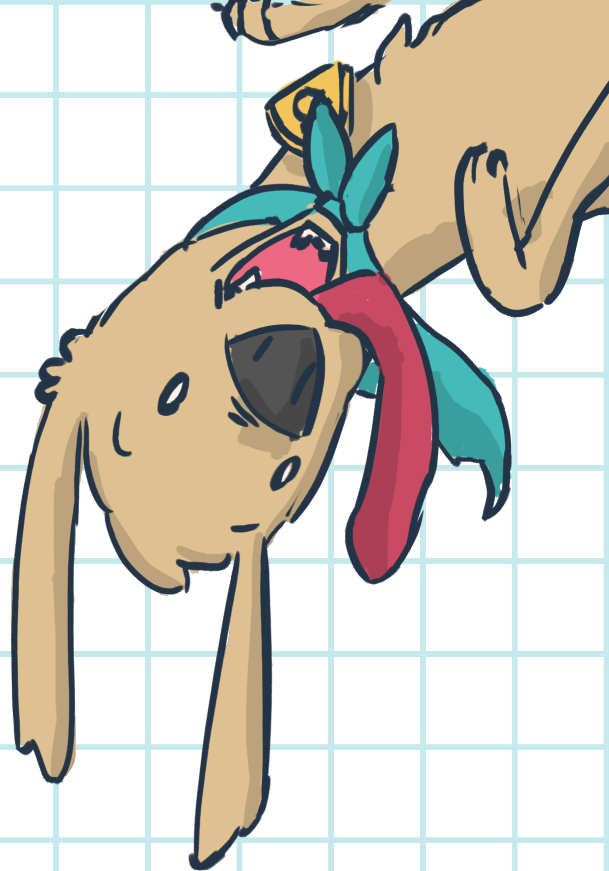


used for moving lots  
of soil out of the way



used for digging

used to mark off the  
area you're digging in



used to document  
what you found



used for getting the last  
bit of dirt off bones



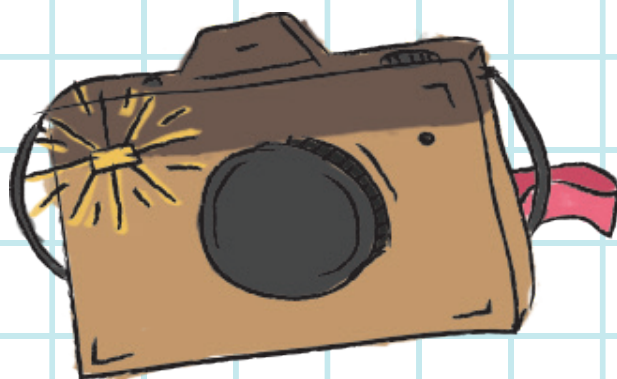


# What To Do If You Find A Fossil

## 1. Take a picture!

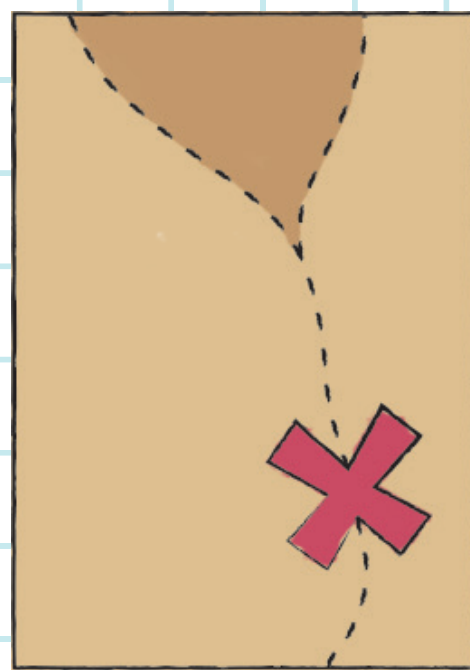
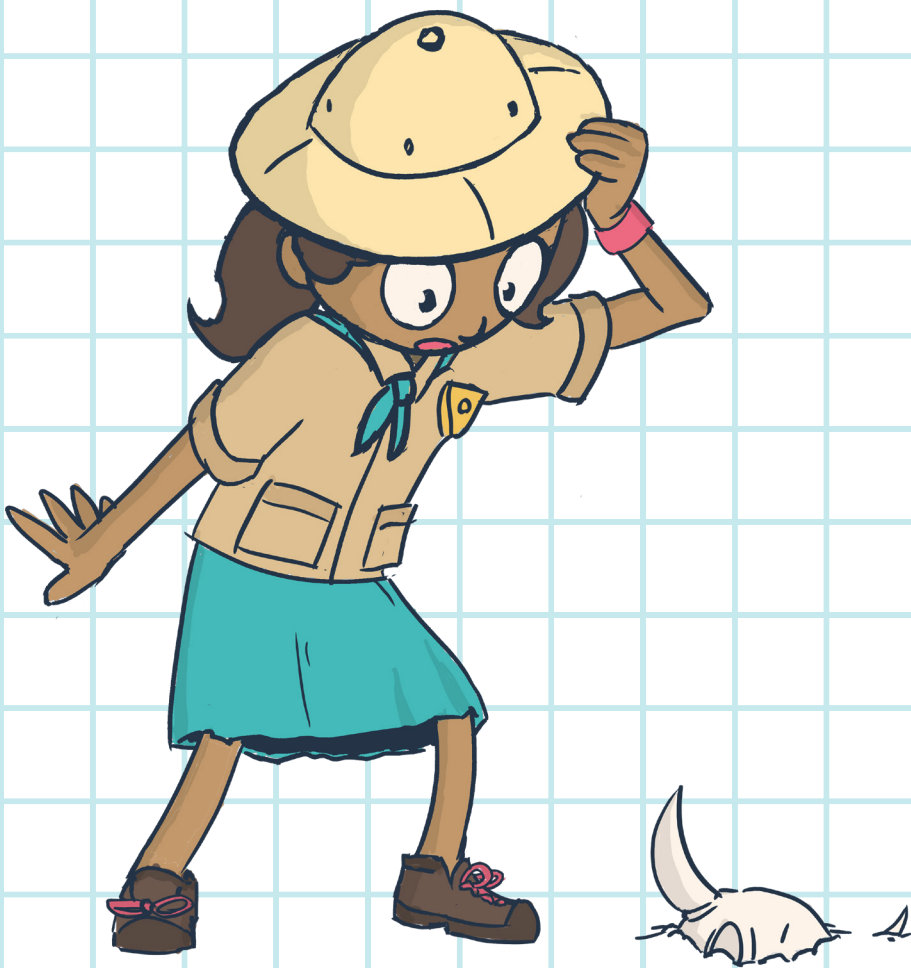
one up-close

one with the  
surrounding  
scenery



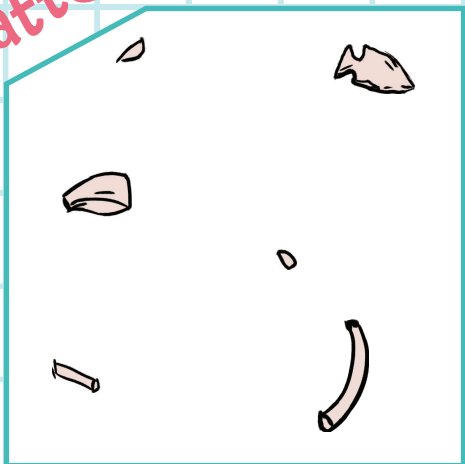
one with an object  
for scale like a coin  
or your sunglasses

## 2. Mark it on a map!



Which of these best describe the fossils you see?

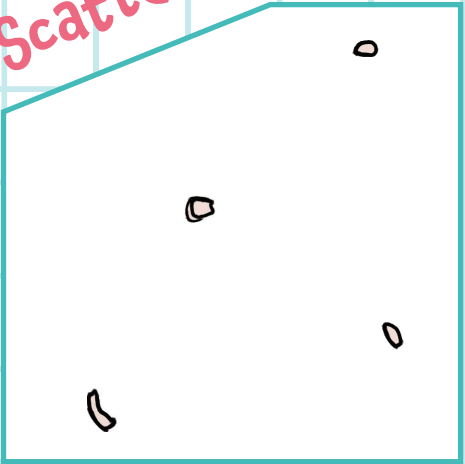
Scattered



Grouped



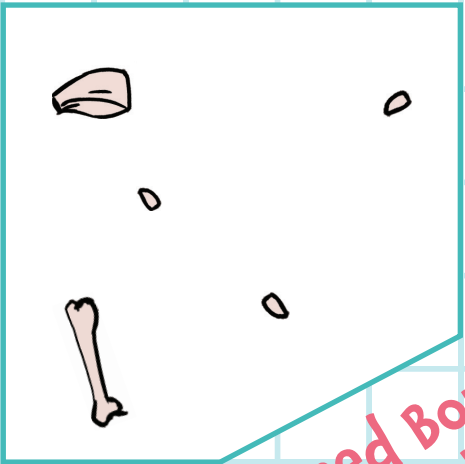
Small Fragments  
Scattered



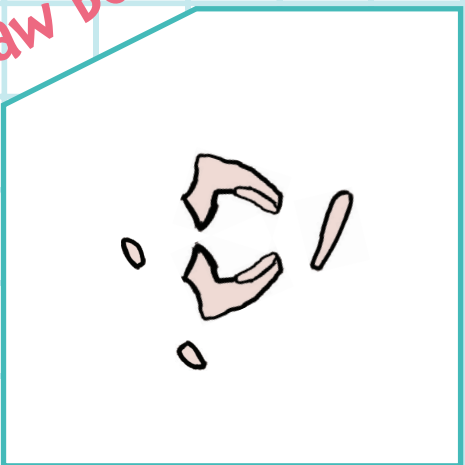
Grouped Bones  
and Teeth



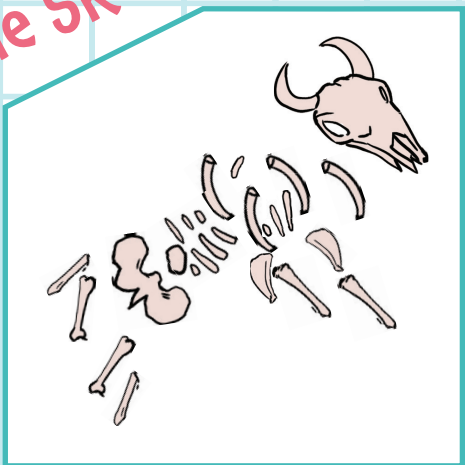
Scattered Bones  
and Teeth



Grouped  
Jaw Bones



Whole Skeleton!



Multiple Animals  
or Artifacts



The origin of all of these bison skeletons is still a mystery,  
but our archaeologists are working hard to solve it!

**What's your conclusion about what  
happened to these bison?**

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draw it here



draw it here

# Wow, that was a lot of hard work!

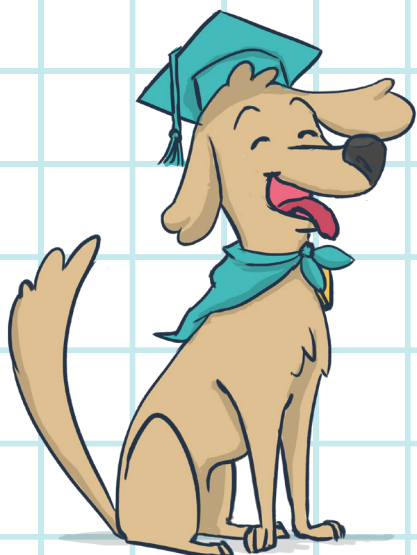
Now that you've finished, bring this booklet to the Hudson-Meng front desk during regular hours



Mail this booklet to the address below

We'll give you or send you your certificate and you'll officially be a **Hudson-Meng Junior Archaeologist!**

Junior Archaeologist Program  
Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands  
125 N. Main Street  
Chadron, NE 69337



Woof!

Great job!





